



# Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

[of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment](#)



Biweekly Bulletin May 18, 2011

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to children's environmental health. They are archived and searchable on our website:

[http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working\\_groups/childrens\\_health/bulletins](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins).

## ICEH Highlights

### New Practice Prevention Column

CHE has published a new column on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) on the [ICEH website](#). Available in both English and Spanish, this column provides information on the health effects of PAHs and how to avoid exposures.

### Cumulative Impacts Website Launched

A new website addressing cumulative impacts of environmental stressors on health is now available online: [www.cumulativeimpacts.org](http://www.cumulativeimpacts.org). This is a joint project of the [Science and Environmental Health Network](#) and the [Collaborative on Health and Environment](#).

## Announcements

*A daily news feed with articles and announcements is available on CHE's website:*  
<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

### [EPA announces next step on air toxics standards for boilers and certain incinerators.](#)

As previously announced, the US Environmental Protection Agency is seeking additional public feedback and gathering more information on the final standards for boilers and certain solid waste incinerators that were issued in February 2011. EPA will accept additional data and information on these standards until July 15, 2011.

### [EPA releases searchable website for drinking water violations.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency today announced improvements to the availability and usability of drinking water data in the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) tool.

### [Journal special edition: Health Affairs.](#)

The May 2011 issue of Health Affairs has a theme of Environmental Challenges For Health.

### [On International Nurses Day, Health Care Without Harm salutes nurses around the world.](#)

Nurses serve their communities in different ways. The most familiar one is working in a health care facility. But in recent years nurses have rediscovered their profession's traditional environmental health roots.

### [EPA and Army Corps of Engineers release draft guidance to clarify waters covered by Clean Water Act.](#)

On April 27, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers released "Draft Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act" for a 60-day public comment

period.

**[EPA seeks small entity participation on air rules for secondary aluminum production facilities.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency is inviting small businesses, governments and not-for-profit organizations to participate as Small Entity Representatives for a Small Business Advocacy Review Panel to review risk and technology standards for secondary aluminum production facilities.

**[Call for nominations: Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites nominations from a range of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment to its Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee. Vacancies are anticipated to be filled by December 2011. Nominations are due by May 20, 2011.

**[EPA to hold three public hearings on national standard for mercury pollution from power plants.](#)**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold public hearings on May 24 and 26, 2011, on the proposed mercury and air toxics standards. EPA also will accept written comments on the proposed standards until July 5, 2011.

## Upcoming Events

**Online Calendar.** These and more upcoming events, including requests for proposals and abstracts, are listed in a searchable calendar:  
<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

**1) Congressional Staff Briefing: Toxic Beauty: Salon Workers' Exposure to Dangerous Chemicals**

Wednesday May 18, 2011  
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
Washington, DC  
in HCV 200

Sponsor: National Healthy Nail Salon Alliance, Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum and Women's Voices for the Earth, in cooperation with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

Speakers include Jamie Silberberger, director of Programs & Policy for Women's Voices for the Earth; Michael DiBartolomeis, PhD; Thu Quach, PhD, research scientist with Cancer Prevention Institute of California and the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative; Ty Nguyen, licensed cosmetologist and nail salon worker; Van Nguyen, licensed cosmetologist and nail salon owner; and Safiyyah Edley, stylist with Luvmikinks in Los Angeles.

Price: free

Contact: Randi Moore, 202-587-2861 or [rmoore@rabengroup.com](mailto:rmoore@rabengroup.com)

**2) Communities, Economic Growth, and Sustainable Resources**

Wednesday May 18, 2011  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
San Luis Obispo, California  
in Spanos Theatre at Cal Poly

Sponsor: Cal Poly's Center for Sustainability in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, and the County of San Luis Obispo

Richard Jackson, MD, MPH, and chair of Environmental Health Sciences at the UCLA School of Public Health, will join a panel of local government and health speakers to

discuss environmental and economic factors behind America's obesity epidemic and community changes needed to combat it.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Cal Poly's STRIDE Center, 805-756-0673 or [stride@calpoly.edu](mailto:stride@calpoly.edu)

### **3) EH@Home Workshop**

Thursday May 19, 2011 in Medford

Friday June 17, 2011 in Bend

in Oregon

Sponsor: Oregon State University Environmental Health Sciences Center  
EH@Home is a professional development workshop from the Oregon State University Environmental Health Sciences Center. EH@Home will focus on common environmental health concerns found in residential settings. Anyone who works in the residential setting or communicates with the public, older adults, families or parents is welcome to attend. OSU Faculty will present the latest research findings on key environmental health issues. Workshop participants will be able to recognize common problems, identify risk reduction strategies, and know when to use specialists for further assistance. Lunch will be provided along with a certificate of attendance.

Price: unknown; preregistration is required

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Naomi Hirsch, 541-737-8105 or [naomi.hirsch@oregonstate.edu](mailto:naomi.hirsch@oregonstate.edu)

### **4) Raising Elijah: Protecting Our Children in an Age of Environmental Crisis**

Wednesday May 18, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Baltimore, Maryland

at Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central Branch, 400 Cathedral Street

Sponsor: Baltimore Green Works in partnership with Baltimore Medical System and funded in part by The Ceres Foundation

Nothing could be more important than the health of our children, and no one is better suited to examine the threats against it than Sandra Steingraber. Once called "a poet with a knife," she blends precise science with lyrical memoir. In *Living Downstream* she spoke as a biologist and cancer survivor; in *Having Faith* she spoke as an ecologist and expectant mother, viewing her own body as a habitat. Now she speaks as the scientist mother of two young children, enjoying and celebrating their lives while searching for ways to protect them-and all children-from the toxic, climate-threatened world they inhabit.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **5) Fracking - Is It Just a Dirty Word? Environmental and Public Health Considerations of Hydrofracturing**

Thursday May 19, 2011

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics; Public Health Law Association; Public Health Law Network; and Public Health Law Research Program

Hydrofracturing, or "fracking", is a process for removing natural gas from rock formations deep beneath the earth's surface. New approaches to fracking are raising significant questions about whether the process creates unreasonable risk to human and environmental health. The EPA is studying the impact of fracking on drinking water, which is just one of the health concerns raised by the process. Public health and

environmental advocates are urging policymakers to employ the precautionary principle and prohibit fracking until the impact of the process is fully evaluated. Several states have considered, and some have passed, legislation regulating fracking or imposing a moratorium during a period of study. This webinar will examine the health hazards of fracking, policies to protect the public's health from these risks and the reactions of the public health community.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 651-695-7749

### **6) 12th World Congress on Environmental Health**

Saturday through Friday, May 21 - 27, 2011

Vilnius, Lithuania

at the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva

Sponsor: International Federation of Environmental Health and Lithuanian Union of Hygienists and Epidemiologists

The Congress will focus on the most relevant issues that reflect the main theme of the Congress - "New Technologies, Healthy Human Being and Environment" including traditional topics and aspects of environmental health, such as health impact and health risk assessment, noise and electromagnetic fields impact, food safety and public education. The Congress will touch as well new challenges to public health, such as information technologies, gene engineering, new epidemics, climate change and other. The conference language is English.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contacts page](#)

### **7) Public Hearings on National Standard for Mercury Pollution from Power Plants**

Tuesday May 24, 2011 (Chicago and Philadelphia) and Thursday May 26, 2011 (Atlanta)  
9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Chicago, Illinois; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Atlanta, Georgia

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

EPA will hold a public hearing on the proposed mercury and air toxics standards. The new power plant mercury and air toxics standards would require many power plants to install widely available, proven pollution control technologies to cut harmful emissions of mercury, arsenic, chromium, nickel and acid gases, while preventing as many as 17,000 premature deaths and 11,000 heart attacks a year. The public may register to speak at a specific time at a hearing by contacting Pamela Garrett as listed below or registering in person on the day of a hearing. EPA also will accept written comments on the proposed standards until July 5, 2011. EPA will finalize the rule by November 2011.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Pamela Garrett, 919-541-7966 or [garrett.pamela@epa.gov](mailto:garrett.pamela@epa.gov)

### **8) Science and Decisions: How Can We Advance Risk Assessment**

Tuesday May 24, 2011

10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Risk assessment has become a dominant public policy tool for making choices, based on limited resources, to protect public health and the environment. It has been instrumental to the mission of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as other federal

agencies in evaluating public health concerns, informing regulatory and technological decisions, prioritizing research needs and funding, and in developing approaches for cost-benefit analysis. However, risk assessment is at a crossroads. Despite advances in the field, risk assessment faces a number of significant challenges, including lengthy delays in making complex decisions; lack of data, leading to significant uncertainty in risk assessments; and many chemicals in the marketplace that have not been evaluated and emerging agents requiring assessment. *Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment* (also known as the 'Silverbook'), published by the National Academy of Sciences in 2009, makes practical scientific and technical recommendations to address these concerns. On this call, three leading national researchers will discuss the report's recommendations and what progress has been made towards their implementation-as well as what obstacles remain in order to more accurately evaluate public health risk.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

### **9) CHE Alaska call: International Actions to Eliminate the World's Most Dangerous Chemicals: Update from the Stockholm Convention**

Wednesday May 25, 2011

9:00 a.m. Alaska / 10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Alaska

The Stockholm Convention is a global treaty created in 2001 to remove known and potential persistent organic pollutants from worldwide use. Beginning with banning twelve chemicals known as the "deadly dozen", parties to the convention meet every two years in Geneva, Switzerland, to decide which additional dangerous chemicals should be banned and whether exemptions should be made for "acceptable uses" of banned chemicals. Representatives of the International POPs Elimination Network and Alaska Community Action on Toxics who were in Geneva for the Fifth Conference of Parties (COP5) last month will discuss highlights and outcomes of the week-long international meeting, including the decision to eliminate endosulfan from worldwide use, a new study showing banned chemicals in carpet padding, actions by the Indigenous peoples delegation, and new science on the potential impacts of climate change and POPs.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

### **10) CHE Fertility call: Finding Your Voice: Advocacy for Healthcare Professionals**

Thursday May 26, 2011

10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Fertility & Reproductive Health Working Group

Join us for a discussion of strategies for health care professionals advocating for changes in policy that will protect patients from environmental risks. Dr. Ted Schettler will describe the unique role that healthcare professionals play in advocacy and the best use of existing scientific evidence. Dr. Maye Thompson will present effective approaches for working with advocacy groups and professional organizations. Brenda Afzal will look at advocacy in practice, examining barriers to progress and presenting success stories of clinicians in action. Resources for pursuing opportunities for advocacy will be discussed throughout the call.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

### **11) Autism, Mercury Exposure, and Disordered Porphyrin Metabolism**

Thursday May 26, 2011

12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington, HSB T-435

Sponsor: University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

The speaker will be Jim Woods, PhD, research professor emeritus of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Washington.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **12) Northwest Lawn & Garden Pesticide Summit**

Saturday June 4, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at University Unitarian Church, 6556 35th Ave NE

Sponsor: Coalition of Organic Landscapers

The goal of the summit is to create awareness of the health hazards and environmental degradation associated with pesticides, and to strategize ways to reduce their use, including changes in local policy, legislation, and pesticide-free public places. Our message: Take action to reduce the cosmetic use of pesticides in our environment, especially where children are most at risk. Lunch is included.

Price: \$15; preregistration is requested

[Visit the website](#)

### **13) 2011 Environmental Summit: Air Quality and Public Health**

Monday June 6, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Indianapolis, Indiana

at the Campus Center at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, 420 University Boulevard

Sponsor: IU School of Medicine's Department of Public Health, the Center for Urban Health at IUPUI, and Improving Kids' Environment

How does air quality affect the health of Hoosiers? Are there particular impacts on children or urban dwellers? What's being done to reduce air pollution and how will that impact our health and Indiana's economy? Topics will include 1) known health effects of air pollutants; 2) research on air quality and health, including multipollutant exposure; 3) effects of climate change on urban health; 4) Clean Air Act's major accomplishments in public health protection; 5) the current state of air quality in Indiana; 6) mercury deposition in Indiana; 7) economic impact of proposed national air quality standards; 8) air quality and children's health in Indiana; and 9) recent utility settlements and their impact on air quality. A box lunch will be provided.

Price: free, but a \$20 donation is suggested

[Visit the website](#)

### **14) 12th Workshop on Brominated and Other Flame Retardants**

Monday and Tuesday, June 6 - 7, 2011

Boston, Massachusetts

at Boston University

Sponsor: unknown  
The program is posted on the website.

Price: unknown  
[Visit the website](#)

### **15) Introduction to Managing Environmental Data with Microsoft Access 2007**

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 7 - 8, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sacramento, California

at the Radisson Hotel

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

Participants will gain basic to intermediate skills in using Microsoft Access 2007 to build relational databases for managing and mining their environmental data. This comprehensive class uses extensive hands-on exercises for in-depth use of tables, queries, forms, reports, and macro objects in Access 2007. These Access database subjects use real-world environmental examples with actual field data. No experience with MS Access 2007 is required; however, basic understanding of Microsoft Office software and basic computer skills are required. Continuing Education Units are available.

Price: \$545 or \$445 for employees of Native American tribes, nonprofits, and government agencies; students; and NAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

### **16) Healthy Lives, Healthy Minds**

Thursday June 9, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

St. Paul, Minnesota

at the St. Paul Crowne Plaza Hotel

Sponsor: AAIDD Environmental Health Initiative

This postconference workshop will provide the most updated information on science, policy and costs of chemical exposures as well as on the state/federal partnership on TSCA reform. The workshop on the relationship between the prevalence of IDD and other health conditions and environmental exposures builds on the successful December '08 Minnesota conference.

Price: unknown  
[Visit the website](#)

### **17) Cumulative Impacts on Health: New Community-Based Research Projects**

Thursday June 9, 2011

11:00 a.m. Pacific / 2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Multiple aspects of the environment in which we live, learn, work and play can impact our health. However, the general practice of governmental agencies and policymakers responsible for protecting public health and the environment is to focus on one factor at a time, and more specifically, one chemical contaminant at a time. For many years, the environmental justice movement and local communities have advocated for the consideration of multiple exposures and cumulative impacts in environmental policy and regulatory decisions. The emerging science, in fact, affirms what these advocates have been calling for-explicitly, the need to take into account interacting concerns, such as socioeconomic, nutritional and psychosocial factors along with multiple toxic exposures, if we are to improve public health. This conference call will feature researchers recently

funded by the US EPA who are working with poor and underserved communities to determine how multiple stressors, such as hazardous chemicals, poor nutrition, and lower socioeconomic status, undermine their health as well as what interventions could be implemented to create healthier, more resilient communities. The call will last one and a half hours and will be recorded for archival purposes.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

### **18) "The Toxies"**

Thursday June 16, 2011

4:00 p.m. PDT red carpet; 5:00 p.m. awards ceremony; 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. afterparty

Los Angeles, California and virtual  
at the Egyptian Theater in Hollywood

Sponsor: Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy (CHANGE) and led by Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles

"The Toxies" is a satirical awards ceremony highlighting "bad actor chemicals." This 2nd annual event, created by the statewide coalition Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy (CHANGE) and led by Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA), has now come together with groups across the country to share the concept of "bad actor chemicals" by bringing them to life with a Hollywood spin. Those who are not in Los Angeles at the time can host or join a remote viewing party.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contact page](#)

## **News and Journal Articles**

### **[Alabama agencies advise EPA against hazardous waste label for coal ash.](#)**

*Tuesday, May 17, 2011*

Three state agencies that oversee the environment, transportation and utilities have advised the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that coal ash, a byproduct of burning coal to generate electricity that is plentiful in Alabama, should not be treated as a hazardous waste. Birmingham News, Alabama.

### **[Cosmetics contaminated by heavy metals.](#)**

*Tuesday, May 17, 2011*

You won't find lead or arsenic on the ingredients list of your favourite lip gloss or eyeliner, but a Toronto-based environmental group has tested dozens of cosmetics products commonly used by Canadians and found virtually all were contaminated with heavy metals. Calgary Herald, Alberta.

*[See other articles about metals and health: [An approach for quantitatively balancing methylmercury risk and omega-3 benefit in fish consumption advisories](#); [Cadmium, lead, and mercury in relation to reproductive hormones and anovulation in premenopausal women](#); [Lead-screening bill squashed](#); [Low lead levels linked to higher blood pressure during labor](#); [Mercury in dental fillings comes under fire at FDA meeting in Orlando](#); [Study examines links between Hispanics, lead](#); [Natural disasters in the Southeast cause EPA to urge caution on restoration activities involving lead-based paint](#) and [Aviation fuel polluting air and water with lead?](#)]*

### **[PBDEs: small differences, big toxic changes.](#)**

*Monday, May 16, 2011*

A new study finds that small changes in the chemical structures of PBDE flame retardants have a large impact on their toxicity to brain cells. The research furthers understanding of the toxic effects of widely-used flame retardants by identifying which types are potentially most dangerous. Environmental Health News.



**[Study finds breastfeeding leads to good behavior in childhood.](#)**

*Monday, May 16, 2011*

Researchers from Oxford, as well as colleagues from the University of Essex, York, and University College London, investigated the association between the duration of breastfeeding and child behavior at age 5. Environmental News Network.

**[India's top court imposes ban on 'toxic' pesticide.](#)**

*Saturday, May 14, 2011*

India's top court on Friday temporarily banned use of the pesticide endosulfan, which the government has resisted blacklisting despite curbs imposed in 60 other countries over health concerns. Agence France-Presse.

*[See other articles about pesticides: [Kerala shuts down HIL endosulfan factory](#); [Nenshi urges reducing pesticide use](#); [From the fields to inner city, pesticides affect children's IQ](#) and [Widely used but just tested pesticides may contribute to infertility](#)]*

**[Bacteria-laden soap not so clean.](#)**

*Saturday, May 14, 2011*

Soap may not always be as clean as it seems, suggests a new study, which found that every soap dispenser at an elementary school in Ohio was contaminated with bacteria that are known to cause illnesses. Environmental News Network.

*[See other articles about bacterial infection: [Medical tourism boom raises superbug risk](#); [Sugar makes antibiotics more effective, study finds](#) and [Sharing musical instrument spreads infection](#)]*

**[Study: pollution higher near schools for state's black, Hispanic students.](#)**

*Friday, May 13, 2011*

A majority of African-American and Hispanic students in Michigan attend schools in the most polluted areas of the state, according to a study published by University of Michigan researchers. Detroit News, Michigan.

*[See another article about health risks at schools: [Asbestos still present at 85% of Seoul schools](#)]*

**[Skin traps harmful pollutants.](#)**

*Friday, May 13, 2011*

We shed skin constantly -- each of us replacing our outer layer of skin every two to four weeks -- and all of those skin flakes may help reduce levels of certain pollutants in indoor environments. Discovery Channel.

**[Perfluorochemicals may postpone puberty.](#)**

*Wednesday, May 11, 2011*

Two perfluorinated chemicals [PFOA and PFOS] are linked to a delayed onset of puberty, according to a study of nearly 6,000 children living near a chemical plant.

*[See other articles about exposures and outcomes: [U-M to study why childhood exposure to toxicants makes us sick as adults](#) and [In utero and lactational exposure to PCBs in mice: adult offspring show altered learning and memory depending on Cyp1a2 And Ahr genotypes](#)]*

**[Lake slime loaded with pollutants.](#)**

*Wednesday, May 11, 2011*

Some wastewater plants already use certain biofilms to remove chemicals from their discharge, and the new finding suggests that stream slimes might be able to help, too. Discovery News.

*[See another article about water quality: [Pollution monitors for Lake St. Clair, rivers may shut down](#)]*

**[Take time to check for ticks.](#)**

*Wednesday, May 11, 2011*

Cases of tick-borne illnesses like Lyme disease and anaplasmosis, also known as erlichia, are creeping higher. Superior Telegram, Wisconsin.

**[Plastic: 10 things you may not know.](#)**

*Tuesday, May 10, 2011*

In the 1940s, few plastics existed and hardly anything was made of it. Today, the average person is virtually never more than 3 feet from something made of plastic, says author Susan Freinkel. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

**[Cell phone radiation? Text, don't talk, advises FCC.](#)**

*Tuesday, May 10, 2011*

How dangerous is your cell phone? The unfortunate reality is that you can't really know. Even so, only one year ago, progressive San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsome proposed an ordinance that would have required that all retailers inform consumers about the amount of radiation that cell phones emit. Forbes.

*[See other articles about cell phone radiation: [Phone radiation "affects biological processes"](#) and [Ban mobile phones and wireless networks in schools, say European leaders](#)]*

**[Welders breathe, amass manganese in front regions of the brain, too.](#)**

*Tuesday, May 10, 2011*

Welders exposed to long-term, low-level fumes can accumulate manganese in more areas of their brains than previous research shows. Environmental Health News.

*[See other articles about occupational exposures: [Silicosis in denim sandblasters](#); [Brevard County Fire-Rescue lands \\$600K federal grant to improve stations' air quality](#) and [Navy researcher links toxins in war-zone dust to ailments](#)]*

**[Celiac disease diagnosis affected by socioeconomic status: BIDMC study.](#)**

*Monday, May 09, 2011*

Income is a pivotal factor in whether a patient without common symptoms of celiac disease is accurately diagnosed with the digestive condition, according to a new study from the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA. Health, Medical, and Science Updates.

**[Climate disasters hit poor children.](#)**

*Monday, May 09, 2011*

Climate change is increasing the number of disasters which hit children in poor countries, campaigners have warned. Press Association.

*[See other articles about climate change: [The future of food is now](#) and [Climate change bringing infection, hunger, illness](#)]*

**[Children conceived in March more likely to have autism, researchers say.](#)**

*Monday, May 09, 2011*

California babies conceived in March had a significantly higher rate of autism, perhaps adding to a body of research that links spring and summer pesticide exposure to birth defects, according to researchers from UC Davis. California Watch.

*[See other articles about autism: [Study in Korea puts autism's prevalence at 2.6%, surprising experts](#) and [Analysis finds evidence of autism in many vaccine injury cases](#)]*

**[Motor vehicles biggest source of air pollution.](#)**

*Sunday, May 08, 2011*

Tagged as the biggest source of polluted air, especially in Metro Manila, are motor vehicles using diesel fuel because of its toxic substance content that proves hazardous to the environment and city inhabitants. Philippine Star.

*[See a related article from Lebanon: [More than 90 percent of Beirut residents exposed to air pollution](#) and other articles about air quality: [Implications of different approaches for characterizing ambient air pollutant concentrations within the urban airshed for time-series studies and health benefits analyses](#); [Diesel exhaust activates & primes microglia: Air pollution, neuroinflammation, & regulation of dopaminergic neurotoxicity](#); [Venice tries to balance effects of visits by big ships](#); [Dust may help explain military illness](#); [Fires no place for treated wood](#); [EPA agrees to rethink parts of new cement kiln rules](#) and [Smoke chemical 'may threaten health'](#)]*

### **[New evidence that caffeine is a healthful antioxidant in coffee.](#)**

*Friday, May 06, 2011*

Scientists are reporting an in-depth analysis of how the caffeine in coffee, tea, and other foods seems to protect against conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and heart disease on the most fundamental levels. ScienceDaily.

*[See other articles about diet and nutrients: [Coffee may prevent breast cancer among postmenopausal women](#); ['Apple a day' advice rooted in science](#); [Omega-3 status in pregnancy linked to childhood obesity: Study](#); [Folic acid supplementation not associated with colon cancer: meta-analysis](#); [The ongoing public health hazard of consuming raw milk](#); [Hidden dangers of soy](#); [Green tea and tai chi enhance bone health and reduce inflammation in postmenopausal women](#); [A review of seafood safety after the Deepwater Horizon blowout](#); [High levels of chemicals found in some fish in S. California](#) and [Report faults FDA over risks from imported seafood](#)]*

### **[Parental exposure to BPA during pregnancy associated with decreased birth weight in offspring.](#)**

*Friday, May 06, 2011*

Parental exposure to bisphenol A (BPA) during pregnancy is associated with decreased birth weight of offspring, compared with offspring from families without parental BPA exposure in the workplace, according to Kaiser Permanente researchers. ScienceDaily.

*[See other articles about BPA: [Kroger joins effort to block use of BPA](#) and [Message in the bottle: MN law successfully clears store shelves of BPA](#)]*

### **[Cigarette smoking and arsenic exposure: a deadly combination.](#)**

*Friday, May 06, 2011*

Arsenic exposure and smoking each elevate the risk of disease. But when combined together, the danger of dying from cardiovascular disease is magnified, a new study finds. ScienceDaily.

*[See other articles about tobacco use: [Poor labeling of chewing tobacco hides risks](#) and [Cigarette smoking is a risk factor for Alzheimer's Disease: an analysis controlling for tobacco industry affiliation](#)]*

### **[Healthy lifestyle on the risk of breast cancer.](#)**

*Friday, May 06, 2011*

Healthy lifestyle was associated with a reduction in the odds of having breast cancer. Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention.

### **[Opinion split on health effects of low radiation doses.](#)**

*Friday, May 06, 2011*

As the Fukushima nuclear crisis drags on, so too do abnormally high airborne radiation levels in a number of prefectures, as well as the presence of radioactive materials in water and vegetables. Mainichi Daily News, Japan.

*[See other articles about radiation risks: [Nuclear power plants cleared of leukaemia link](#); [Health risk from troubled Japan nuclear plant](#); [Japan to cancel plan to build more nuclear plants](#); [Children getting too many CT scans, some doctors fear](#); [Navajo group to take uranium mine challenge to human rights commission](#); [Chernobyl legacy: Individual radiation exposure linked to thyroid cancer risk](#); [Scientists cast doubt on TSA tests of full-body scanners](#) and [GPs get the go-ahead to order less risky scans](#)]*

### **[Diabetes is a "time bomb" in the Arctic: Expert.](#)**

*Friday, May 06, 2011*

Diabetes is a ticking "time bomb" in the Arctic, says a public health expert at this week's conference on climate change and pollution in the Arctic in Copenhagen, because of persistent organic pollutants found in the meat and blubber of marine mammals. Nanatsiaq News, Nunavut.

### **[Frack and ruin: the rise of hydraulic fracturing.](#)**

*Friday, May 06, 2011*

Fracking is becoming the gold rush of the 21st century. It began in Britain in March. In the US, its use skyrocketed since 2005 when the Energy Policy Act exempted fracking

wells from federal regulation under the Safe Drinking Act. London Daily Telegraph, United Kingdom.

[See other articles on fracking: [Scientists call for more studies on hydraulic fracturing](#); [Colorado's fracking regulations set for review](#); [Energy Dept. panel to revise standards for gas extraction](#); [Scientific study links flammable drinking water to fracking](#); [EPA seeks more information from natural gas drilling operations to ensure safety of wastewater disposal](#); [Study: Fracking health impacts underestimated](#) and [Natural gas industry regulators, officials say fracking chemical disclosure won't stop spills](#)]

### **Washington is first state in nation to ban toxic pavement sealants.**

Friday, May 06, 2011

Washington State has become the first in the nation to ban toxic asphalt sealants made from cancer-causing industrial waste that have been spread over vast swaths of the nation's cities and suburbs. Investigate West.

[See a related article from Illinois: [County mulls sealant ban](#) and other articles about regulating toxic exposures: [Four years after oil company's criminal conviction for pollution, still no sentencing](#); [S.F. puts cell phone radiation law on hold](#); [Court OKs ex-smokers' suits against tobacco firms](#); [Judge rules AVX is responsible for pollution and cleanup in Myrtle Beach](#); [State seeks comment on Hansville landfill cleanup plan](#); [Colorado's gas-station inspections, cleanups draw praise](#); [EPA takes action to protect ground water from petroleum contamination](#) and [States join together to get rid the worst-of-the-worst chemicals](#)]

### **Banned stain repellent impacts gene activity key to male fertility, researchers report.**

Thursday, May 05, 2011

An exposure study with adult mice finds that the stain repellent chemical known as PFOS alters expression of key genes that help regulate growth, development and production of several male reproductive functions. Environmental Health News.

[See another article about fertility: [Can crotch length predict infertility in men?](#)]

### **Contaminants found in well water.**

Thursday, May 05, 2011

Wells provide water for many Montanans, but after residents experienced health problems from the water, the U.S. Geological Survey conducted a study to find out why. They discovered the water isn't as clear as it looks. Missoula KECI TV, Montana.

[See other articles about contaminated sites: [Athabasca pollution near oilsands is increasing: study](#); [Saugus residents: Neighborhood more polluted since RESCO arrived](#); [Sen. Boxer makes stink to EPA over Mecca odor](#); [Kingdom rejects BBC claim of Zamzam water contamination](#); [EPA urges meeting participants to study four proposals](#); [Hundreds of Midland, Texas residents suing Dow Chemical and three other companies over chromium contamination](#); [Iran expert alarmed by 'critical' Caspian Sea pollution](#); [San Bernardino: Rail yard pollution is more toxic than in other areas](#); [Colville Tribes unhappy with Canadian mining company's cleanup efforts](#); [Inquiry finds no evidence of cancer link to cement works](#); [Natural, but still worrisome](#); [Environmental effect of storms still in question](#) and [The human costs of Nigeria's oil industry](#)]

### **Could a suntan actually protect you from skin cancer?**

Thursday, May 05, 2011

In fact, the official message to avoid the sun is being softened these days, partly because of fears that avoiding it means we miss out on vital vitamin D (which is manufactured by the body from the sun's rays). London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

### **Environmental illness in U.S. kids cost \$76.6 billion in one year.**

Thursday, May 05, 2011

It cost a "staggering" \$76.6 billion to cover the health expenses of American children who were sick because of exposure to toxic chemicals and air pollutants in 2008, according to new research by senior scientists at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. Environment News Service.

[See other articles about children's health: [EPA administrator: clean air regs needed to](#)

[protect children's health; Environmental noise exposure, early biological risk and mental health in 9 to 10 year old children: a cross-sectional field study; Exposure to phthalates among premenstrual girls from rural and urban Gharbiah, Egypt: A pilot exposure assessment study and Animal tests show anaesthetics may harm baby brains\]](#)

### **Middle-aged weight gain linked to dementia in new study.**

Wednesday, May 04, 2011

According to a new study, being overweight or obese during middle age may increase the risk of certain dementias. Health, Medical and Science Updates.

[See another article about cognitive function: [Exercise boosts learning: new study](#)]

### **Havoc that cooking with firewood does to your health.**

Wednesday, May 04, 2011

Firewood smoke has affected the health of people in many households. Experts warn that prolonged exposure to firewood smoke is a significant cause of health problems, including respiratory infections, lung diseases such as asthma, and pregnancy-related problems. Nigerian Tribune, Niger.

[See a related article: ['Clean stoves' would save lives, cut pollution](#)]

### **Asthma rate rises sharply in U.S., government says.**

Wednesday, May 04, 2011

Americans are suffering from asthma in record numbers, according to a study released Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nearly one in 10 children and almost one in 12 Americans of all ages now has asthma, government researchers said. New York Times.

[See another article about asthma: [Valley especially hostile to asthma sufferers](#)]

## **Lessons Learned**

### **POPs - The Chemicals That Don't Go Away**

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

Excerpts from Silent Spring by Rachel Carson:

"We are rightly appalled by the genetic effects of radiation; how then, can we be indifferent to the same effect in chemicals we disseminate widely in our environment?"

"As crude a weapon as a cave man's club, the chemical barrage has been hurled against the fabric of life."

Persistent organic pollutants, or POPs, as the name implies, remain in the environment because they are not readily degraded or broken down. Small organisms take up these compounds where they biomagnify and move up the food chain to bioaccumulate in humans and animals. These agents can have significant effects on human and environmental health.

One of the first to point out the serious detrimental effects of compounds with these characteristics, such as DDT, was Rachel Louise Carson (May 27, 1907 - April 14, 1964). In her book *Silent Spring* (1962), she eloquently pointed out the potential hazards of the thoughtless and uncontrolled use of chemicals. The widely used pesticide DDT, a classical POP, was developed in the chemical revolution around World War II and had seemingly little effect on humans. However, it drastically weakened the eggshells of birds, particularly those high up the food chain. We subsequently learned that DDT bioaccumulates in the fat of mammals, including humans, where it is excreted in breast milk and adversely affects a developing organism.



It took almost 40 more years before the international community recognized and categorized POPs with the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, adopted May 23, 2001. The global treaty entered into force on May 17, 2004, with the purpose to safeguard human health and the environment from highly harmful chemicals that persist in the environment and affect the well being of humans as well as wildlife. The convention, requiring parties to eliminate and/or reduce POPs, initially focused on 12 intentionally and unintentionally produced chemicals, the so-called "Dirty Dozen" which includes a number of the chlorinated pesticides such as aldrin, chlordane, DDT and dieldrin, as well as PCBs. The list was expanded in 2009 when nine new compounds were added, including chlordecone. Over 50 countries, but not the US, have ratified the POPs convention--the US Senate has failed to ratify this important treaty.

Rachel Carson



It took decades from the publication of *Silent Spring* before the international community started to work together to restrict POPs to protect human health, wildlife and the environment. Even now we continue to put large volumes of chemicals, such as BPA, into the environment without full assessing the potential effects. These effects are often most pronounced in developing organisms, which eat, drink and breathe more than an adult per body weight. We have an ethical responsibility to ensure our children as well as all wildlife can reach and maintain their full potential, which means one free of persistent organic pollutants.

Stockholm Convention at Toxipedia:

<http://toxipedia.org/display/toxipedia/Stockholm+Convention>

### Looking back to go forward

Lessons Learned is a bulletin feature focusing on an historical event that provides an important lesson for ensuring a more sustainable and healthy environment. Please feel free to send suggestions to [Steve Gilbert](#).

Past Lessons Learned: <http://toxipedia.org/x/06Jb>

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment offers this information as a service but does not endorse any of the events, articles or announcements.

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in environmental health as it relates to learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>
- For those interested in environmental health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the ICEH Working Group, please complete the application on the CHE website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application> Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listserv. CHE costs nothing to join and the benefit is shared information and opportunities for further engagement, if you choose. Be sure to mark that you want to join the Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Hepp  
**Collaborative on Health and the Environment**

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